

Part 2 - Ground Combat Element

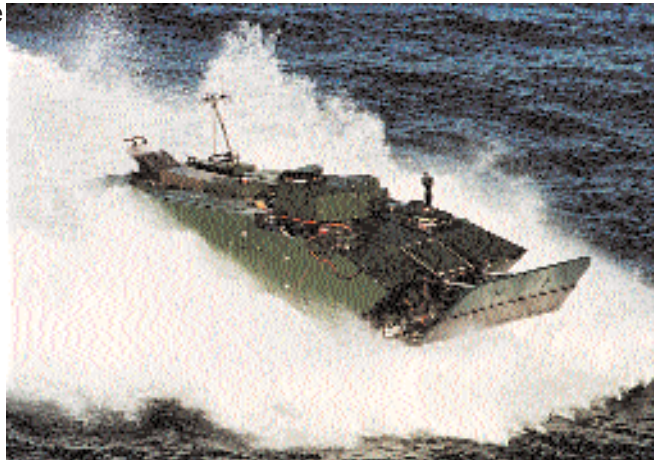
The GCE is task-organized to conduct ground operations, project combat power and contribute to battlespace dominance in support of the MAGTF's mission. It is formed around an infantry organization reinforced with artillery, reconnaissance, assault amphibian, tank, and engineer forces. The GCE can vary in size and composition from a rifle platoon to one or more Marine divisions. It is the only element that can seize and occupy terrain.

Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAAV) Program

Description

The AAAV will join the MV-22 and LCAC as an integral component of the amphibious triad required to execute Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare. The AAAV will allow naval expeditionary forces to eliminate the battlefield mobility gap and, for the first time

in the history of naval warfare, maneuver ashore in a single, seamless stroke giving both the ships and land forces sufficient sea space for maneuver, surprise, and protection. The AAAV's unique combination of offensive firepower, armor, and Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) protection, and high-speed mobility on land and sea represent major breakthroughs in the ability of naval expeditionary forces to avoid an enemy's strengths and exploit its weaknesses. The AAAV remains the Marine Corps' number one ground acquisition program.



Operational Impact

The AAAV will allow immediate, high-speed surface maneuver of Marine infantry units as they emerge from ships located over the visual horizon 25 nautical miles and beyond. Projection of these forces will be conducted in a manner that exploits the intervening sea and land terrain to achieve surprise and rapidly penetrate weak points in the enemy's littoral defenses to seize operational objectives.

Program Status

The first AAAV prototype was publicly presented in June 1999 and the first

prototype began contractor shake out testing in August 1999. During the remainder of 1999 and throughout 2000, three prototypes underwent Developmental Testing and Early Operational Testing with all performance parameters being met. AAAV is currently in the Systems Development and Demonstration Phase of the program, which will see 10 second-generation prototypes produced. Initial Operational Capability (IOC) will be reached in FY 07; Full Operational Capability will be reached in FY 17. A total of 1,013 vehicles will be produced.

Procurement Profile	FY 02	FY 03
Quantity:	0	1
Developer/Manufacturer	General Dynamics Amphibious Systems, Woodbridge, VA	

